

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9443

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06182

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GW, WB, VN, US

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON PRG AND NORTH VIETNAM

REF: A) BONN 3793; B) THE HAGUE 1815

1. AN AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE HAS INFORMED
US THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN VIETNAM HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT
NO CHANGE IN THE FRG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRG. THE FRG
REGARDS THE PRG FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES AS AN
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APPENDAGE OF NORTH VIETNAM AND SEES NO REASON FOR RECOG-

NITION OR FOR INCREASED CONTACTS. THUS BONN WILL CONTINUE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO OPPOSE AN ENHANCEMENT OF THE PRG'S STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, CONFERENCES, ETC. IN THE GERMAN VIEW, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER INDIVIDUAL PRG REPRESENTATIVES SUCH AS MRS. BINH MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IS ONE WHICH HAS NOT YET ARISEN.

2. FRG TALKS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE STILL STALEMATED. THE LAST INITIATIVE IN THIS CONNECTION WAS TAKEN BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, WHO ASKED TO SEE FRG AMBASSADOR VON BRAUN ON APRIL 3. AT THAT MEETING, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR MADE TWO POINTS:

A) HE PROTESTED THE SENDING OF TWO GERMAN SHIPS TO STAND OFF THE VIETNAMESE COAST FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN EVACUATION OPERATIONS. VON BRAUN REPLIED THAT THE FRG REGARDED THIS AS A PURELY HUMANITARIAN ACTION WHICH IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE BY THE FRG IN THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM.

B) HE INDICATED SLIGHTLY MORE FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE EARLIER NORTH VIETNAMESE DEMAND FOR FRG RECOGNITION OF THE PRG AS A CONDITION FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE ACCEPTANCE OF GERMAN REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING BERLIN. PREVIOUSLY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE INSISTED THAT THEY COULD NOT DISCUSS BERLIN UNTIL THE FRG INDICATED ITS READINESS TO STATE IN WRITING THAT IT WOULD RECOGNIZE THE PRG OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, ADOPT A "NON-HOSTILE ATTITUDE" TOWARD THE PRG. ON THIS OCCASION, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD VON BRAUN THAT NORTH VIETNAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ORAL STATEMENT, SAY BY THE CHANCELLOR BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG, INDICATING A FRIENDLIER GERMAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRG THAN HAD EXISTED IN THE PAST EVEN THOUGH THE FRG DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PRG. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT BEFORE THE DIET IN

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JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND SAID THAT NORTH VIETNAM HAD CONSIDERED IT "SATISFACTORY".

3. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE FRG DID NOT REGARD THE PRESENT TIME AS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR AN ACTIVE PURSUIT OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND HAD THEREFORE MERELY TAKEN NOTE OF WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR HAD TO SAY. SO FAR AS THE FRG WAS CONCERNED,

THE "PAUSE FOR REFLECTION" WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON
AFTER THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION IN EARLY MARCH WAS
STILL IN EFFECT. OUR SOURCE DID NOT THINK THAT THERE
WAS ANY PARTICULAR COMPULSION AMONG OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS
TO MOVE TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE PRG MORE RAPIDLY AS A
RESULT OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
HE THOUGHT THAT THE NETHERLANDS' MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION
WAS MORE A REFLECTION OF DUTCH DOMESTIC POLITICS THAN A
REACTION TO THE CHANGED SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HILLENBRAND

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